

ATPE BOOK of the month CLUB

All the Broken Pieces by *Ann E. Burg*

1. How do you feel about the author's use of verse to tell Matt's story?
2. When Matt shares his memories of his birth mother telling him that if he stays in Vietnam he will "be like dust," what do you think she meant?
3. In school Matt writes that "freedom is the color of bright red sneakers." Why did he choose to express his understanding of freedom in this way?
4. Matt's adoptive mother believes that "music will help soothe his monsters." How does music help Matt throughout the story?
5. How does Rob and Matt's relationship evolve throughout the story?
6. Why does Matt choose to tell Rob about his past before anyone else?
7. Matt shares: "Maybe love is like a monsoon rain. When it rains really hard and heavy, it seems like it will never end and we'll swim in mud forever. But then the wind shifts, and the earth grows dry and cracked. Every gurgle and ooze tiptoes away and we're left wishing and waiting for rain again. Maybe love is like that. Maybe the wind shifts and love just tiptoes away." How is this quote reflective of Matt's pull between his adoptive family and the family he had to leave in Vietnam?
8. Why do you think Matt fears his adoptive family wants to send him away?
9. Matt's dad says, "The war changed all of us, Matt. Whether we went or whether we stayed, the war changed us all." How is this true in the wars of today?
10. If you were in Matt's situation, how would you feel about your birth father?

